

EXIT BOTKIN.

The most notorious criminal that ever held down a judicial bench in Kansas has just slackened his grip on the republican party of the state by resigning his office. He did not deign to do so, however, until he had thoroughly convinced the public that he was master of the party, nor until he was ready to name his successor, nor yet until it was too late to permit the election of a successor at the coming election.

Theodosius Botkin and the man whom he had chosen as his successor, William E. Hutchinson, went to Arkansas City on the 11th and there happened to find the lost governor, with whom they made arrangements for a change in the judicial office of the Thirty-second district. The resignation was accepted and the appointment made, and the following day Hutchinson came to the supreme court room and took the oath of office. It is to be hoped that he will have more regard for his oath than his predecessor had.

As Botkin is the author of the now famous motto, "Stand up for Kansas," a short review of his case may be of interest to *Advocate* readers in other states. This man has probably done more to disgrace Kansas in the eyes of the world than any other man, unless it be the present governor, who has sustained him in all his villainy.

The Thirty-second district was created by the legislature of 1889 for the benefit of Botkin, who had been a faithful party worker. He was immediately appointed to fill the office of judge of that district, which was composed of Seward, Stevens, Morton, Grant, Haskell and Stanton counties. A bitter county seat fight sprang up in Stevens county, and the new judge, who was elected after his appointive term expired, was soon arrayed on the side that had the most money. Col. Sam Wood was the champion of the other side. Botkin was not only bitterly partisan in his decisions, but he was a confirmed drunkard and was charged with being mixed up in several disreputable schemes, among which was one to despoil the treasury of the town of Springfield. At the instigation of Wood and others, the legislature of 1890 instituted an impeachment trial against the judge, charging him with drunkenness, illegal purchase of liquor, blasphemy, oppression in office and other disorderly conduct while in office. The senate tried the case and the evidence brought showed the charges to have been very mild. All but three members of the senate were republicans, and as the vote was made a test of party fealty, Botkin was acquitted by a two-thirds majority, to the satisfaction of the administration crowd and the disgust of all respectable citizens.

Depraved as Botkin was, he had his friends among the lower class, and among them was one named Brennan, who had stood by him in all his wickedness and debauchery. Late in the summer following the trial, Col. Wood went to attend Botkin's court at Hugoton,

and while there he was shot and killed by Brennan, without any apparent cause. Brennan was not tried because no competent jury could be found in the district. He is still the bosom friend of Botkin, and is a candidate for sheriff in Oklahoma. While Brennan's case was pending, another fight occurred between the two factions, in which Sheriff Dunn was killed, and upon the demand of Botkin, who took that plan to blind the public and make himself appear to be seeking peace, the governor sent out the militia.

During all these troubles, which entailed enormous expenses upon the state and counties in which they occurred, there was a constant demand, even from a part of the republican press, for Botkin's resignation. But the judge boasted that he had the administration behind him and he proposed to remain in the office. As all outward appearances seemed to confirm that assertion the clamor from the republican side ceased and Botkin was recognized as a loyal republican. It is generally conceded, however, that a greater scoundrel never existed on God's footstool.

MRS. EMERY IN TOPEKA.

Mrs. S. E. V. Emery, the author of the little book entitled "Seven Financial Conspiracies," passing through Topeka, stopped long enough to hold one meeting. There was but little time to circulate notice of the meeting, but a few parties interested themselves in it, and advertised it as well as possible under the circumstances. The republicans had a meeting advertised for the same evening at the court house, which is just across the street from Metropolitan hall where Mrs. Emery spoke. Mr. Garver, republican candidate for attorney general, was the republican speaker. Metropolitan hall, which is one of the largest in the city, and fully three times the size of the court room, was well filled with an enthusiastic audience. Mrs. Emery spoke for nearly two hours, and was listened to attentively from first to last. At the close of her address, Senator Puffer was called to the platform, and he proceeded to contrast the meeting with the one across the street, which he had visited and found a sickly affair, both in numbers and in the character of the address. The Senator, owing to the lateness of the hour, said he would not undertake to make any speech, but enforced the injunction that the events of the few months past demanded the defeat of the party that is responsible for the conditions which render possible the labor troubles at Homestead, Penn., and other states of this American republic.

Mr. G. C. Clemens was called for, and in a few forcible remarks pointed out the tendency of the times as indicated by the recent decision of a supreme justice in Pennsylvania, holding it to be treason against the state for the members of the Amalgamated association to resist the armed pirates imported from the slums of the great cities to shoot indiscriminately the Homestead workmen, or their wives

and children alike, should they get in the way. Mr. Clemens was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

The meeting from first to last was a marked success, even the *Capital* considering it prudent not to institute a comparison of it with the meeting across the street.

OUTRAGEOUS LYING.

The republican sideshow brought to this city upon railroad passes issued by Railroad Commissioner Mitchell, the expenses of which were paid by the republican state central committee, reaffirmed the declaration of the Topeka *Capital* that the Omaha platform proposed the disfranchisement of government employees. Such mendacity as this is not only inexcusable upon any plea whatever, but it is an insult to the intelligence of a reading public. All any person has to do to satisfy himself that the declaration is an absolute falsehood is to read the platform. When any party or combination is reduced to the extremity of perpetrating a falsehood which is so readily exposed, and which, in fact, will be recognized as a falsehood by every man and woman in the country the moment it is seen, it must be pretty hard up for campaign thunder.

Does some one ask why lawyers, as a rule, oppose the People's party and talk unceasingly about standing up for the good name of Kansas? It is simply because the more vicious legislation we have the more lawyers flourish. The more foreclosures there are, the better it is for the lawyers. Litigation follows bankruptcy and ruin. But some one asks if there are not some lawyers in the People's party? Certainly. They are the ones who have some consideration for the rest of mankind, and they realize that there is such a thing as carrying one's selfish motives too far. They are not too selfish to consider that there are other people in the world, and some of them remember that they have children who are not lawyers and who are likely to live after them. Some lawyers have a conscience, and they contend that to save the people from retrogression and degradation is the proper way to save the credit of the state. It requires more in a man than meekness and submission to build up credit.

GEORGE T. ANTHONY was so exasperated with the slim attendance at his Ottawa meeting (his home) that he said naughty words and drove part of his little audience away before the meeting was over. He actually consigned the whole People's party to the depths of the infernal regions, and as about half of his audience had been among the 5,000 who attended the Populist rally at the same place, it is no wonder they left while Anthony was talking. The average Populist is always willing to listen to a decent speech from anybody, but when it comes to profanity and villification he is out. Anthony is indecent.

MEN of Shawnee county, do not neglect your county and district tickets in

your anxiety to carry the state. You have as good a set of People's party candidates as any county in the state, and you can elect them. Organize every voting precinct so that a full vote is cast and the counting fairly done, and the capital county is ours.

SINCE the arrest of the Populist chairman, John W. Breidenthal (which was clearly a political trick), the pressure has been so heavy on Bank Commissioner Johnson that he has been compelled to bring suit in a case where the law was being actually violated—a case to which the vigilant official had heretofore kept his eyes closed. It was against Guilford Dudley, who conducts a private bank in Topeka, and who has persistently refused to comply with the law, saying that his financial standing was nobody's business but his own. Mr. Johnson knew of this violation before he caused Breidenthal's arrest; but as there was no political capital in sight, he ignored the case until the other failed. Now he is anxious to do his duty.

SUCH argument as "Don't throw away your vote by supporting a reform ticket," and "A vote for Mr. Newparty is half a vote for Mr. Democrat" (or Mr. Republican, which ever suits the locality), has no force this year. The west has been humbugged by that kind of foolishness long enough. Outside of the money loaning districts it don't make a particle of difference (except to those who are looking for federal appointments) whether it is Cleveland or Harrison. One is six, and the other is half a dozen. But the election of Weaver would mean something. We want a change that will do some good.

SOME of the jack-leg stump orators are telling about the last legislature being controlled by the caucus. There is not a voter in Kansas who believes that any member of the People's party or the alliance would have been acquitted by the house of representatives if he had been on trial before that body under similar circumstance and with like evidence of crime against him as was the case with Botkin before the senate. Yet the senate acquitted Botkin as Humphrey told them to do, and the constituents of those senators who voted for acquittal have been holding their noses ever since.

KANSAS is not waiting for Georgia or any other state to take the lead in political reform. Kansas started first and she is going to get there first. Why not? Her people are better educated than those of any other state, and they are brave enough to vote their sentiments under any circumstances.

THE important question now is whether or not Lew Hanback draws any extra pay from the state contingent fund for driving Humphrey's salvation wagon in the Third district.

THE brotherly love which has lately sprung up between the republicans and the bolting democrats passeth all understanding.